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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 AID-05 L-02 /033 R

DRAFTED BY S/R:ORM:CCPAPPAS:CAF:EUR/SE:RWERDMA
APPROVED BY S/R:LAWIESNER
EUR/SE - MR. LEDSKY
AID - MR. NOOTER
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ORM - MR. DAWSON
AID/NESA - MR. WARD
IO/CMD - MR. SPRINGER
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P R 072106Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051528

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: SREF, EAID, UNHCR, CY
SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF UNHCR MANDATE ON CYPRUS
REF: NICOSIA 735 NICOSIA 896 NICOSIA 898

1. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH EMBASSY NICOSIA THAT UNHCR IS IDEAL VEHICLE FOR CHANNELLING AND COORDINATING MULTI-LATERAL INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE AID TO CYPRUS. IN ADDITION TO POINTS CITED REFTEL (PARTICULARLY THE POLITICAL AD-VANTAGES OF WORKING THROUGH UNHCR),THERE IS IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE IN UNHCR PARTICIPATION WHICH IS CONFIDENTIAL

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THE TEMPORARY NATURE OF UNHCR ROLE IN CONTRAST TO OTHER

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UN AGENCIES.

2. USUN SHOULD SEEK EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO APPROACH SYG TO STRESS DESIRABILITY AND NEED FOR EXTENSION OF UNHCR MANDATE IN CYPRUS BEYOND APRIL AND FOR EXPANSION OF ITS SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES BEYOND STRICT RELIEF AND IMMEDIATE NEED CRITERIA AND IN THE DIRECTION OF REHABILITATION. MISSION SHOULD DRAW FREELY FROM NICOSIA 735 STRESSING FOLLOWING:

A. UNHCR ENJOYS CONFIDENCE AND COOPERATION OF BOTH TURKISH AND GREEK COMMUNITIES AND CAN WORK WITH BOTH WITHOUT HAVING TO ADDRESS POLITICALLY SENSITIVE QUESTION OF RECOG-NITION. ON OTHER HAND UNDP, AS A GENERAL RULE ONLY

PROVIDES ASSISTANCE AT THE REQUEST OF PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS. BECAUSE OF THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE RECOGNITION PROBLEM,THIS WOULD EFFECTIVELY PREVENT UNDP OPERATION IN NORTHERN CYPRUS.

B. UNCHR IS EFFICIENT AND FLEXIBLE IN ITS HANDLING OF REFUGEE PROBLEMS. IT IS IDEAL ORGANIZATION TO COORDI-NATE INTERNATIONAL, BILATERAL, AND UN ASSISTANCE.

C. WE DO NOT ENVISION NOR WANT A PERMANENT UNHCR OR OTHER UN AGENCY PRESENCE ON CYPRUS. WE BELIEVE THAT UNHCR SHOULD BE PHASED OUT AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT AND THAT SITUATION SHOULD BE REVIEWED WITH THIS PRINCI-PLE IN MIND. OUR JUDGMENT AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, IS THAT ITS PRESENCE WILL BE NECESSARY AT LEAST FOR SEVERAL MORE MONTHS.

D. ASSISTANCE EFFORT ON CYPRUS IS ENTERING A NEW PHASE IN WHICH PRIORITY NEEDS HAVE SHIFTED FROM EMPHASIS ON IMMEDIATE NEEDS FOR SHELTER, FOOD, AND MEDICINE TO EMPHASIS ON LONGER RANGE ACTIVITIES GEARED TO EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMS. THIS TYPE OF PROGRAM IS PARTICULARLY WITHIN UNHCR'S COMPETENCE AND EXPERIENCE AND ACCORDS WITH UNHCR OBJECTIVE OF UNDERTAKING ACTIVI-TIES TO SOLVE REFUGEE PROBLEMS RATHER THAN SIMPLY MAIN-CONFIDENTIAL

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TAIN THEM.

E. WE BELIEVE MAJOR HURDLE WILL BE THAT OF FINANCING. EXTENSION OF UNHCR MANDATE WILL PROBABLY NECESSITATE NEW INTERNATIONAL APPEAL. USG PREPARED TO SUPPORT ANY SUCH APPEAL FINANCIALLY AND TO ENCOURAGE OTHER PROSPECT-IVE DONOR NATIONS TO CONTRIBUTE GENEROUSLY. INGERSOLL

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